

# MONTANA STATE LIBRARY



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# LEGALITIES



News from the STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION  
State Law Library  
of Montana

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY,  
1515 E. 6th AVE.,  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

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## THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGING

We librarians tend to be service-oriented individuals who want to provide complete, relevant, and accurate information as soon as requests are received. As the only lending law library in the state which provides reference assistance, we feel a tremendous obligation to send you your requested materials as soon as we possibly can; however, there are limitations to what is possible for us. We thought that you would like to know what factors restrict us so that you can work around them.

Our last mail pick up of the day is shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon. If you call us with a request after that time, we obviously can't get it out until the following day. If we are working on several requests at the time yours comes in, yours will be placed at the end of the queue and will be acted on in turn.

One exception to this situation is telefacsimile transmission. As you know, we were awarded a grant last spring to experiment with this mode of information delivery. As part of our project we have placed a dozen fax machines at public libraries around the state. If you are willing to incur a small additional charge for the long distance call, we will zap your request to you immediately, day or night.

Speaking of telephone charges ... due to budget cuts, we no longer are returning long distance phone calls. If you need to talk to a particular person on our staff who is unavailable when you call, we will ask you to call back at a specific time. We will make every attempt to be ready for your second call.

Reference requests are received more frequently as we approach the legislative session, yet we aren't able to add any staff to assist with the crunch. As a matter of fact, Sandra Jarvie's position will not be filled until at least July. We have 25% fewer staff hours now than we had last year at this time. If you find us impatient, know that sometimes we are feeling overworked and unappreciated!

Legislative histories are not "published" resources that we can simply pull off the shelf and copy for you. It usually takes our reference librarian at least an hour to put one together; more time is required if many amendments were enacted. There may be times when we will be unable to complete as many histories as

you have requested or finish them by your deadline. We are happy to suggest the name of an independent researcher who may help you, for a fee, at these times.

You can help us to help you efficiently and effectively by providing us with complete and accurate citations when you call. It is very frustrating, especially when an inexperienced secretary is responsible for calling us, when you simply have not given enough correct information. A vague request for "a case" (state?, federal?) from the past "ten or twenty" years having to do with a fire district's liability (or was it workman's comp and a police department?) is not easily or quickly responded to. Don't assume that your secretary will know enough to ask you the right questions. We need docket number or citation, title, year, and anything else you can provide. The more information you pass on to us the better!

This is the time of year when videotape rentals are in great demand. Please remember that although you may want to watch an Irving Younger tape the week of February 16th, you won't automatically be mailed that particular title. We keep a very precise reservation system, and we adhere to a "first come, first served" policy. If you definitely want a specific title or subject for an exact date, call us well in advance.

These are sparse times for state government, and the law library has not been spared. We will continue to try our best to give you what you want, when you want it. Your understanding of our policies and limitations will definitely help.

Judith Meadows

#### SUMMER INTERN

During this fall, Judy Juntunen served as an administrative intern at the Law Library as part of her work for a master's degree in public administration. Her assigned project was to develop an introductory program to the Law Library for high school students. Legal research exercises and guides were drafted with the help of student volunteers from Capital and Helena High Schools.

Judy is currently the Continuing Education Coordinator for the Montana Nurses' Association.

#### TAX TIME

Tax season is upon us, change is on the wind, and access to the most current and accurate information available remains an imperative for tax practitioners and taxpayers alike. We have offered and will continue to offer a variety of sophisticated and comprehensive tax services. Though harsh times for state government have forced cuts upon us, we have been as protective of our tax collection as possible. Impending staff shortages

dictate even sharper definition of priorities and the State Law Librarian has set the updating of our tax materials a high one. Please, peruse the following list.

These titles can be checked out of the Law Library:

Complete Guide to the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Prentice-Hall.  
KF/6276.S7/.C55  
Family Law Tax Guide. Commerce Clearing House. KF/6335/.A6/F25  
Federal Tax Forms. Commerce Clearing House. KF/6301/.A6/F3  
IRS Publications. Commerce Clearing House. KF/6301/.A6/I7  
Prentice-Hall's Explanation of the Tax Reform Act of 1986.  
KF/6276.S7/.P83  
RIA Complete Analysis of the '86 Tax Reform Act. Research  
Institute of America. KF/6276.S7/.P83  
Tax Planning for Agriculture: ALI-ABA Course of Study.  
KF/6369.8/.F3/T29  
Tax Reform 1986: Analysis and Planning. Matthew Bender.  
KF/6276.S7/.T4  
Tax Reform Act of 1986: Conference Bill H.R. 3838 and  
Conference Report. Callaghan & Co. KF/6276.S7/.T29  
U.S. Master Tax Guide (1987). Commerce Clearing House.  
KF/6369/.U54  
West's Federal Tax Manual with WESTLAW. KF/6335/.A6/W37/1985

These titles can be used in the Law Library:

All States Tax Guide. Prentice-Hall. KF/6730/.A6/P7  
Estate Planning & Taxation Coordinator. Research Institute of  
America. KF/6571/.A8/R47  
Prentice Hall Federal Taxes. KF/6285/.P7  
Standard Federal Tax Reporter. Commerce Clearing House.  
KF/6285/.S7  
Tax Management Portfolios. Bureau of National Affairs.  
KF/6285/.T39

#### ON-LINE WIZARDRY

We are very excited about our newest on-line capability. It is brought to us by Washington Alert, a database from Congressional Quarterly, Inc. Full text of bills before Congress will be available as of January 12, 1987. After identifying the pertinent bill(s), the entire legislation, or individual provisions, either can be read on screen or printed out. After requesting an outline of subdivisions within a bill, either certain subdivisions or full text can be chosen. Every bill introduced is tracked through the legislative process, and the system will be cumulative; all versions of every bill, from introduction through final clearance, will be stored and accessible.

The original version will be available at the time it is released in printed form by the Government Printing Office.

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OUR BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR!





**State Law Library of Montana**

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